

dairy review

Maryland cash receipts from milk marketings for 2004 totaled \$196.0 million, up 22 percent from \$160.3 million for 2003. Milk producers received an average of \$17.00 per hundredweight for milk sold in 2004, up significantly from the \$13.30 received per hundredweight in 2003.

Milk production for 2004 totaled 1.16 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the 1.22 billion pounds in 2003. The annual average number of milk cows was 74,000, down 4,000 from a year earlier. Milk per cow averaged 15,703 pounds, 126 pounds per cow more than in 2003. Dairy herds in Frederick County, the top milk producing county, produced 347.0 million pounds of milk in 2004, down 22.0 million pounds from the previous year, and accounting for 30 percent of Maryland's total milk production.

Washington and Carroll counties produced 214.0 and 190.0 million pounds of milk, respectively. These top three counties produced 65 percent of Maryland's milk during 2004. Statewide, annual average milk fat was 3.68 percent, down slightly from 3.73 percent in 2003. Monthly fat tests in 2004 ranged from 3.59 percent in May, June, and July to 3.80 percent in January.

Production of regular ice cream in 2004 totaled 18.9 million gallons, up 8 percent from the 17.5 million gallons produced in 2003.

Milk Production and Total Cows

